

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as described in paragraph 7 of the Office Action. Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as described in paragraph 8 of the Office Action. Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as described in paragraph 9 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 5, and 8-13 are the only independent claims.

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors and to place the application in correct idiomatic English.

The attached Replacement Formal Drawings for Figs. 12, 16A, 16B, 36 and 38, are submitted in order to correct minor typographical errors. In particular: in Fig. 12, "POBSA1.KEY" has been changed to --POBSP1.KEY--; in Fig. 12, "POBSA1.URM" has been changed to --POBSP1.URM--; in Fig. 16A, "(TMSRT)" has been changed to --(TKTMSRT)--; in Fig. 16B, "TKI_LNK_ATR" has been changed to --TKI_LNK_PTR--; in Fig. 16B, "TKI_T11_ATR" has been changed to --TKI_TI1_ATR--; in Fig. 16B, "TKI_T12_ATR" has been changed to --TKI_TI1_ATR--; in Fig. 36, "STI" has been changed to --STKI--; and in Fig. 38, S32, "STKI_KEY" has been changed to --STI-KEY--.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13 are patentable over the prior art of record for the following reasons.

One embodiment of the present invention relates to an improvement for moving a content and its usage rule information where the content is stored in a plurality of files, for example, when a content, such as music data having a long playback period, is moved from one apparatus to another. In such a case, it is desirable to divide the content into a plurality of files in order to restrict the size of a time search table of each file. The time search table shows read addresses to be accessed in response to a forward or backward search request. This feature is disclosed in the specification as filed, for example, on page 41 line 10, through page 42, line 1, which reads as follows:

Since the amount of data played back in two seconds will be between 4 KB and 36 KB, the data length of each entry in the time search table for recording the data length of audio data needs to be two bytes (= 16 bits). This is because a 16-bit value is capable of expressing a number of between 0 KB and 64 KB. On the other hand,

if the total data size of the time search table needs to be restricted to 504 bytes (this being the size of the TKTMSRT described later), for example, the maximum number of entries in the time search table can be calculated as $504/2 = 252$. Since an entry is provided every two seconds, the playback time corresponding to this maximum of 252 entries is 504 seconds ($= 2s\ 252$), or, in other words, 8 minutes and 24 seconds ($= 8.4$ minutes). As a result, setting the maximum playback period for an AOB BLOCK at 8.4 minutes limits the data size of the time search table to 504 bytes.

Consider the case where a distribution medium has recorded thereon (i) a first content entirely comprised on a single object file, and (ii) a second content comprised of two or more object files. In such a case, when only one of the first and second contents is to be moved, it is difficult to determine which part of which content is contained in which object file and which object file (or object files) is to be moved.

The present invention provides a solution to the problem discussed above. In particular, in accordance with one aspect of the present invention, one rule management file contains a plurality of rule entries associated with a plurality of object files, respectively, wherein each rule entry includes control information and authorization information for its corresponding object file. Further, each object file contains a content ID identifying a corresponding content. Because of the content IDs, any content is readily identified regardless of whether the content is comprised of a single object file or a plurality of object files. With this feature, one content may be divided to be contained in a plurality of object files, and the plurality of object files that comprise the divided content can be moved when the divided content is to be moved.

Accordingly, the present invention provides that: (i) each content is recorded onto a recording medium together with a usage rule corresponding the content; and that (ii) a plurality of files containing the divided parts of a single content are recorded together with a usage rule corresponding to that divided content.

Another aspect of the present invention includes a time search table included in track information that enable special playback operations such as a forward or backward search. This time search table provides a high level of convenience for the user.

Independent claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, a recording unit to be operable to “record, into a rule management file provided in the distribution medium, the content as a plurality of contents together with corresponding plurality of contents usage rule information.” Independent claim 5 requires, *inter alia*, that the content comprises “a plurality of contents that are recorded onto the semiconductor memory card together with corresponding plurality of contents usage rule information, the usage rule information being contained in a rule management file that is provided in the semiconductor memory card.” Each of independent claims 8-13 requires, *inter alia*, that “the content comprises a plurality of contents that are recorded onto the distribution medium together with corresponding plurality of contents usage rule information, the usage rule information being contained in a rule management file that is provided in the distribution medium.”

Still further, each of independent claims 1, 5 and 8-13, additionally requires that “the entirety of at least one of the plurality of contents is contained in a single object file, and **at least one of the plurality of contents is divided so as to be contained in a plurality of object files,**” and that **“each of a plurality of rule entries that corresponds to an object file containing a part of the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, includes a content identifier for the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, and one of the plurality of the rule entries includes corresponding usage rule information.”**

It is respectfully submitted that the applied prior art fails to teach the above identified limitation.

Hurtado et al. (Hurtadao) discloses a system for transmitting a content to a user after a license to play the content has been transmitted to the user. Hurtado fails to teach, or even suggest, that a plurality of files containing divided parts of a content are recorded together with a usage rule corresponding to the content. Accordingly, Hurtado fails to teach, or even suggest: that the entirety of at least one of a plurality of contents is contained in a single object file, and at least one of the plurality of contents is divided so as to be contained in a plurality of object files and that each of a

plurality of rule entries that corresponds to an object file containing a part of the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, includes a content identifier for the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, and one of the plurality of the rule entries includes corresponding usage rule information, as required in each of independent claims 1, 5 or 8-13.

It is respectfully submitted that Hall et al. (Hall) fails to teach the shortcomings of Hurtado such that a combination of the teachings of Hurtado and Hall would teach that which is required in claims 1, 5 or 8-13.

Hall teaches the descriptive data structure that provides a rights management data structure such as a secure container with associated information (i.e. content), wherein the descriptive data structure describes, for example, the layout of the rights management data structure. Hall further teaches that an application program, including an interpreter, interprets the descriptive data structure.

As discussed in paragraph 7 of the Office Action, Hall is relied upon for allegedly teaching “the use of a dataset (i.e. Content Container) (figure 4, item 100) including Content (figure 4, item 3142 [sic]) along with the control information controlling copying of the Content (i.e. Rules) (figure 4, item 316).”

While not admitting to the alleged teachings of Hall as discussed in paragraph 7 of the Office Action, it is submitted that Hall fails to teach or suggest that the entirety of at least one of a plurality of contents is contained in a single object file, and at least one of the plurality of contents is divided so as to be contained in a plurality of object files and that each of a plurality of rule entries that corresponds to an object file containing a part of the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, includes a content identifier for the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, and one of the plurality of the rule entries includes corresponding usage rule information, as required in each of independent claims 1, 5 or 8-13.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Coley et al. (Coley), Bendert et al. (Bendert) or Shear et al. (Shear) teaches or suggests the shortcomings of the combination of Hurtado in view of Hall such that a combination of the teachings of Hurtado, Hall, Coley, Bendert and Shear would teach that which is required in claims 1, 5 or 8-13.

Coley discloses attaching a licensing system module to a content in order to manage use of the content by an end user. Bendert discloses a technique for efficiently managing clones of an object group. Shear teaches a control object that defines plural rights management rules, such as price for performance or rules governing redistribution.

Throughout paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that each of Coley, Bendert and Shear, teaches or suggests a plurality of recited features of the present invention. While not admitting to the alleged teachings of Coley, Bendert and Shear, it is respectfully submitted that (similar to Hurtado and Hall discussed above) neither one of Coley, Bendert or Shear teach or suggest that a plurality of files containing divided parts of a content are recorded together with a usage rule corresponding to the content. Accordingly, Coley, Bendert or Shear, either singly or in combination, fails to teach or suggest: that the entirety of at least one of a plurality of contents is contained in a single object file, and at least one of the plurality of contents is divided so as to be contained in a plurality of object files and that each of a plurality of rule entries that corresponds to an object file containing a part of the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, includes a content identifier for the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, and one of the plurality of the rule entries includes corresponding usage rule information, as required in each of independent claims 1, 5 or 8-13.

As discussed above, neither one of Hurtado, Hall, Coley, Bendert or Shear teaches or suggests: that the entirety of at least one of a plurality of contents is contained in a single object file, and at least one of the plurality of contents is divided so as to be contained in a plurality of object files and that each of a plurality of rule entries that corresponds to an object file containing a part of the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, includes a content identifier for the at least one of the plurality of contents, which is divided, and one of the plurality of the rule entries includes corresponding usage rule information, as required in each of independent claims 1, 5 or 8-13. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a combination of the teachings of Hurtado, Hall, Coley, Bendert and Shear additionally fails to teach or suggest that which is required in each of independent claims 1, 5 or 8-13.

Therefore, each of independent claims 1, 5 and 8-13 are patentable over the combination of the teachings of Hurtado, Hall, Coley, Bendert and Shear within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Furthermore, since claims 2-4 and 6-7 are dependent upon claims 1 and 5, respectively, and therefore include all the limitations thereof, Applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 6-7 are additionally patentable over a combination of the teachings of Hurtado, Hall, Coley, Bendert and Shear within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

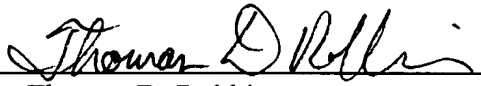
In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-13, as amended, would not have been obvious over the combination of the teachings of Hurtado, Hall, Coley, Bendert and Shear, and urge that the rejections of claims 1-13, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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